

**411 Orchard Street  
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January 5, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

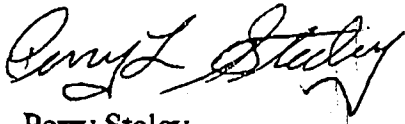
Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

It is unfortunate that there had to be this lawsuit between our government and Microsoft. I am sure that Microsoft had been aggressive in their business practices, but I am not so sure that the line was crossed so as to have made them a target of a suit like the antitrust case. In any case, after plenty of wrangling and even more posturing, there is finally a settlement that will end this case. I am writing to ask that you keep sustaining your support for settlement.

The suit will profoundly restrict Microsoft's business practices. Microsoft cannot demand exclusivity of Microsoft products from computer manufacturers installing software before shipping the computers to dealers or customers. They cannot seek retribution from software companies that develop software designed to compete with Microsoft, which should be a cornerstone of a successful business.

Enough damage to our economy has been accomplished by all this court action and time-consuming legal work. After an ample amount of expense and worrying, both sides are finally ready. I hope you will see that the settlement reached in early November 2001 is brought to completion by your office. I sincerely thank you for your time and effort in seeing this through to its end.

Respectfully yours,



Perry Staley